

Approved: *Bridget Donnell Newton*  
Attest: -

*Kathleen A. Conway*

Approval Date and Meeting Number: March 27, 2017; 14-17

**MINUTES**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**  
February 6, 2017 No. 05-17

**1. Convene**

The Mayor and Council convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017 in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.

**Present:** Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember Virginia D. Onley, Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr, Councilmember Mark Pierzchala

**Staff Present:** City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Kathleen Conway, City Manager Rob DiSpirito and City Attorney Debra Daniel

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Newton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Agenda Review**

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Kathleen Conway reported that there were no changes to the agenda.

**4. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Rob DiSpirito presented information on the following topics: Mayor and Council Town Hall on Diversity occurring Thursday, February 9, 2017 at Rockville's Senior Center; recognition of the Information Technology (IT) Department for completing an extensive upgrade to the network infrastructure throughout the City and the Maryland Department of Transportation and Montgomery County's Open Houses for MD355 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Rockville Police Officer Seth Creel, who was on duty and driving when his vehicle was struck by a motorist, was recognized for his dedication and service.

**5. Community Forum**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Adam Zimmerman	Smoking Ban
Wayne Harrison	Stonestreet

Rick Ellinger	Stonestreet
Dr. Dace Denito	Stonestreet
Jon and Robin Skroski	Stonestreet
Mike Rose	Walking in Rockville, Bus Stops
Patricia Woodward	Chestnut Lodge Process
Suzan Pitman	Stonestreet
Ruth Hanessian	Science Center

## **6. Mayor and Council's Response to Community Forum and Announcements**

The Mayor and Council thanked everyone for their participation in Community Forum.

## **7. Mayor and Council Reports**

The Mayor and Council provided updates on their recent activities, including Boards and Commission meetings and Community Events.

## **8. Presentation – Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)**

Executive Director Mr. Chuck Bean presented an overview of the Metropolitan Region Council of Governments (COG) and the benefits of COG membership for the City of Rockville.

## **9. Consent Agenda**

- A. Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to Washington Gas and Light Company in Maryvale Park in Conjunction with the First Street Bridge Replacement Capital Improvement Program Project
- B. Authorization for Continued Consulting Services for the Upper Watts Branch Park - Forest Preserve Environmental Stabilization Project to Charles P. Johnson and Associates in an Amount not to Exceed \$262,000

**Motion:** to approve the Consent Agenda

Moved by Councilmember Pierzchala, seconded by Councilmember Feinberg and approved unanimously.

## **10. Presentation – Part II of Housing Presentation: Existing Conditions, Forecast and Recommended Strategies**

Chief of Housing Programs Asmara Habte presented an overview of the Housing Market Analysis and Needs Assessment Study, followed by a presentation from Lisa Sturtevant, of Lisa Sturtevant and Associates LLC, who conducted the study. Ms. Sturtevant presented the study results to the Mayor and Council. Topics of discussion and questions included: MPDU Program impact on communities such as Rockville; parking studies, parking standards and the role and costs of parking; how to provide a variety of income targeting solutions for various income ranges; the benefits of a diverse population and a variety of housing options; diversity in housing types to address needs; missing middle housing; possible housing strategies for Rockville; workforce housing; housing burden to family income changes over time.

The Mayor and Council commended the consultant for the thorough research and well written report which will serve as a valuable resource for the Mayor and Council.

*The meeting recessed at 8:54 p.m. and reconvened at 9:02 p.m.*

## **11. Presentation – Stonestreet Corridor Implementation Plan: Proposed Scope of Work**

Principal Planner Andrea Gilles presented the Stonestreet Corridor Study Proposed Scope of Work and clarified that the goal of this agenda item was to seek Mayor and Council feedback regarding a Stonestreet Corridor Study. Presentation topics included the proposed study area and study purpose; history of previous plans addressing the Stonestreet Corridor; current zoning for the corridor; process for moving forward with the study and timeline. Mayor and Council comments and discussion topics included the importance of flexibility with the schedule; expanding the suggested boundaries of the study; the need to study appropriate zoning around Lincoln High School; exploring the use of private-public partnerships; exploring the option of an MOU with the County to avoid mandatory referral but rather use the City's process; the need to include Peerless and HDC in the discussion; consideration to re-establish the bridge (the former "Wooden Bridge"); recommendation to change the name from "Implementation" to "Study", recommendation of a communications point person in the business community; possibility of a Science Center; need for a mix of housing styles; code enforcement for the Stonestreet area needs to be reviewed; status of the removal of Montgomery County trailers. The Mayor and Council confirmed with the business community that the City wants them to be successful and remain in the City.

**Motion:** to authorize the Stonestreet Corridor Study as discussed tonight including the expansion of boundaries discussed.

Moved by Councilmember Pierzchala, seconded by Councilmember Onley and approved unanimously.

## **12. Discussion – Smoking Ban at all Eating Establishments with Outdoor Seating in the City of Rockville**

Management Assistant Louise Atkins led the discussion with the Mayor and Council. Topics of discussion and questions included: status of the 'Attachment F' review by the City Attorney's Office; need for a Public Hearing; reason for Montgomery County's withdrawal of this topic from their agenda (the County has not provided information); enforcement; consideration of unintended consequences and the need to communicate extensively. The next step is to conduct a Public Hearing.

## **13. Discussion – Fiscal Year 2017 Second Quarter Vacancy Report**

Human Resources Director Karen Marshall led the discussion regarding the FY2017 Second Quarter Vacancy Report with the Mayor and Council. Questions and discussion topics included the following:

- ARC (Annual Required Contributions) for all positions (encumbered or not) and their budget placement. Per the Director of Finance Gavin Cohen, the amount no longer shows the gross amount; the amount shown is without the ARC contributions.
- ARC Attachment A – would like Staff to elaborate on the table presented in the Staff Report to make it more meaningful and easier to understand.

#### **14. Approval – Pension Plan Amendment - Rockville Employees Retirement System (ROCKers) Retiree Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 2017**

Director of Finance Gavin Cohen presented the Rockville Retirement Board recommendation to provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Rockville Employees Retirement System. Mayor and Council questions and discussion topics included the following: concerns from a budget perspective; timing of the request compared to other years when the discussion occurred during the budget review and requests were considered with other budget priorities; and the Pension Plan does not include a COLA provision. The Mayor and Council asked for additional information concerning the CPI for the years since the last time a COLA for retirees was provided. The Mayor and Council also asked for additional information regarding other priorities and the Reserve.

#### **15. Review and Comment – Mayor and Council Action Report**

The Mayor and Council reviewed and commented on the Action Report.

#### **16. Review and Comment – Future Agendas**

The Mayor and Council reviewed and commented on future agendas.

#### **Old/New Business**

Schedule the Cultural Arts Commission ordinance change to allow membership by employees who work in Rockville and do not live in Rockville or have a business in Rockville. The current ordinance is too restrictive.

#### **17. Adjournment**

**Motion:** to adjourn at 10:53 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Palakovich Carr, seconded by Councilmember Feinberg and approved unanimously.